



**Providing the rich soil that enables  
our children to develop deep roots and flourish.**



**Information for new parents**



A warm welcome from the Diocese of Gloucester Academies Trust - a thriving family of forward-thinking schools based in Gloucestershire. I am proud to lead such a collaborative organisation where aspiration is high, passion for learning runs deep and our Christian values underpin all we do.

Established in 2012, we currently have 21 primary schools in our family, located in a mix of rural and urban settings. We are boldly passionate about excellence in learning, for both our staff and our children, and are firm in our belief that every child has a right to experience success in an aspirational, inclusive, caring and supportive environment.

Supporting our individual schools to be confident, outward-facing and responsive to the needs of their unique locality is core to who we are. This is coupled with a strong sense of 'together we are something more than ourselves' – we celebrate successes, share good practice and provide support for one another when times are tricky.

A DGAT school is a special place where the uniqueness of an individual school meets the power of collective capacity - together we are stronger as we seek to unlock the potential within our family.

With every blessing,

Canon Rachel Howie – Chief Executive Officer



Welcome to Amberley Parochial School, where children are at the heart of our unique community. Our aim is to create confident, well-rounded and motivated children, who are guided by strong Christian values. We want to support them to become reflective, independent and aspirational learners for life.

We know that starting school is a very exciting, yet nerve-racking, time for you and your child, so we have prepared this booklet to help you get to know us and find out more about how we work. We are pleased that you have chosen Amberley Parochial School and look forward to working in partnership with you over the coming years to ensure that your child enjoys their time with us and achieves their best.

Mrs Flight – Head Teacher



### **Getting to know our school**

Primary school is divided into Key Stages and you will often see these referred to in letters from the school and within educational information from outside agencies.

*Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS):* Reception (Dexter) taught by Mrs Penn  
supported by Mrs Smith & Mrs Lury

*Key Stage 1:* Year 1/Year 2 (Hereford) taught by Mrs Hamilton  
supported by Mrs Apew

*Lower Key Stage 2:* Year 3/Year 4 (Friesian) taught by Mrs Crampton  
supported by Mrs Harbord

*Upper Key Stage 2:* Year 5/ Year 6 (Belted Galloway) taught by Mr Beech  
supported by Mrs Stevens

Despite being a relatively small school, you will find that there are a large number of people involved in your child's education. There is a collaborative effort between all members of the school community to support each and every pupil. We have a very caring team of lunchtime supervisors and peripatetic music teachers, all of whom work closely with class teachers to ensure a safe and caring school environment.

### **Uniform and Additional Equipment**

The school colours are as follows:

Shirt / Blouse	White
Sweatshirt/Jumper/Cardigan	Burgundy
T Shirt / Polo Shirt	White or burgundy
Skirt/Pinafore/Trousers/Shorts	Grey/black
Summer Dress	Red and white checks or stripes
Socks	Grey, black or white
Shoes	Black sensible shoes

A school book bag can be bought from Batemans Store in Stroud. School coats are available but not a necessity.



Uniform is available in local supermarkets and branded items are available at Batemans Store, Stroud.

PE Kit is available through school at a cost of £10.00 and consists of a pair of navy shorts, Coloured House T-shirt and a navy Hoodie. Trainers should also be worn.

Children come into school in their PE kits on a Friday. Young children tend to get themselves in a muddle taking things on and off, it is vital that all belongings and uniform, including shoes, are clearly labelled.

Children in Dexter Class will also need a pair of waterproof trousers and wellington boots, to be kept in school. We spend a lot of time learning outdoors and would like to protect their clothes as much as possible.



All children enjoy taking books home to share with the family. To protect books we do ask that books and letters are taken home in a suitable folder or bag. These are strong and will last for a long time. Please get into the habit of bringing book bags to school every day.

## **Times of the School Day**

Breakfast club starts 7.45am (pre-booked through the school office)

Doors open at 8.45am

Registration 8.50am

Lessons begin at 8.55am

Break and snack is at 10.40am for Reception – Year 4, and at 11.00am for Years 5/6

Lunch 12.25pm - 1.20pm

End of the day 3.15pm

Atlas Sports After School Provision is currently available from Tuesday-Thursday

3.15pm - 5.30pm costing £10 and can be booked via the school website

For safety reasons, the children are accompanied by staff to the main gates at the front of school where they are then handed over to parents. Please be patient, as we need to ensure that each child is with the correct adult, and in the early days, this can take time. If you are unavoidably delayed or someone else will be collecting your child, please try to get a message to school as soon as possible to let us know.

We welcome the chance to hear about any important news or to discuss any worries you or your child might have, so please do come and talk to us. We are all available after school, or someone will be on the door for getting messages to the teacher in the morning. Alternatively, you can make an appointment through the school office.



## **Settling In**

We appreciate that this is a very important step for you and your child and we endeavour to make the transition to full-time school as easy as possible. Children will start by attending for half days (mornings only) for the first two weeks in Reception, the third week will give them a chance to experience lunchtime before starting full time in week four. This enables them to get used to their new classroom and staff before staying for the full day. When your child first stays for lunch with the rest of the school they will be given lots of help from lunchtime supervisors, older children and their teachers whilst they settle in.

## **Buddies**

All the children in Dexter class will be given a 'buddy' and the class teacher will arrange this well in advance of your child starting in September. Your child's buddy will be a Year 6 pupil who will offer support to your child during their early days and weeks. The buddies enjoy this as much as the younger children and take their responsibility very seriously!

## **The Early Years Foundation Stage Curriculum**

The EYFS curriculum supports an integrated approach to early learning and care. It gives all professionals a set of common principles and ensures a commitment to deliver quality early education and childcare experiences to all children. It is divided into two parts:

### **The Prime Areas**

- Personal, Social and Emotional Development
- Physical Development
- Communication and Language

### **The Specific Areas**

- Literacy
- Mathematics
- Understanding the World
- Expressive Arts and Design

In addition, we promote the ***The Characteristics of Effective Teaching and Learning*** which describe how a child learns through:

- Playing and exploring
- Active learning
- Creating and thinking critically

These characteristics are all interconnected with the prime and specific areas and underpin everything that we do in order for us to offer a rich, enabling and engaging environment. A comprehensive explanation of all the areas of the EYFS curriculum can be found on our school website [www.amberleyschool.co.uk](http://www.amberleyschool.co.uk)

## **Supporting your Child**

Children all develop at different rates— they are each unique.

You can help your child by encouraging them to:

- talk about the world around them
- play with other children and encourage them to share and take turns
- manage own basic hygiene and personal needs
- develop and explore physical skills such as climbing and balancing
- read lots of stories, make up stories, discuss characters/settings/likes /dislikes
- listen to music and story CDs
- play games such as snap, dominoes, board games, complete puzzles, etc.
- count steps, objects, sounds etc.



We use an on-line learning journey platform called 'Tapestry' to enable parents to interact with the learning taking place in class and have a class blog, to keep you up to date with what we are doing. If you have any questions, please feel free to come and ask us.



Once they have settled into school, the children will bring home reading books to share (these may not have any words at first!) and letter sounds to learn. The staff will explain this home learning to you and will be happy to suggest ways in which everyday activities can become learning opportunities. We hold a New Parents' Evening and Phonics Information Evening at the start of the School Year.

### **School Lunches**

All children in Reception and Key Stage 1 (Year 1 and Year 2) are universally entitled to a free school meal. This entitlement for 'all' stops after Year 2. Families who are in receipt of certain benefits can apply for 'Free School Meals', not only does this provide access to free meals after the Universal Free School Meal entitlement ends, but it also provides additional funding for the school to support the child's education and access to activities. This should be applied for as soon as possible. More information can be found at [Apply for free school meals - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk) or from the school office.

Our school meals are cooked by The Great Plate, at Nailsworth Primary School, and brought to Amberley each day. We encourage all children to take advantage of this. Menus are published on the school website. During registration, your child will choose which dinner option they would like that day.

If you would prefer your child to bring a packed lunch, this should be in a lunchbox, clearly labelled with your child's name, and should not include any sweets, chocolate bars, or fizzy drinks. Water is provided at school.

### **School Fruit and Vegetable Scheme**

Our school participates in the Schools' Fruit and Vegetable Scheme, which provides every child from Reception to Year 2 with a piece of fresh fruit or vegetable every day at no cost to parents. Children do not need to bring in a snack from home.

## **Water Bottle**

Please provide a named, refillable water bottle which can be brought into school each day and, in the interests of hygiene, return home for washing. This needs to be easy to open and leak proof! The water bottle will be readily available throughout the day in the classroom.

## **Absences**

We would like to encourage parents to avoid keeping their children out of school where at all possible, every day absent is a day of learning that is missed. If your child is ill however, please notify the office as soon as possible by telephone on 01453 873349. Following any sickness or diarrhoea, at school or at home, children should not come into school for a minimum of 24 hours.

## **Money**

Amberley Parochial School is cashless and only accept payments through Schoolmoney.

## **Breakfast Club**

The school operates a Breakfast Club every morning from 7.45am until 8.35am. The children are offered a selection of breakfast cereals, yogurt, toast and jam, honey etc. together with a drink – milk or juice. The cost is £4.00 per child, per morning if more than 24 hours' notice is given. Booking forms are available via the school website.

## **Atlas Sport After School Provision**

To take more of a detailed look into what we do, please pop on over to our website:

<https://atlasamps.co.uk/>

### **What you can expect to see at our clubs...**

Rather than simply offering sports activities, Atlas Camps tailor their offer to suit all interests, abilities and ages. Children are offered a huge variety of activities to choose from daily, ranging from; Arts and Crafts, Dodgeball and Talent Shows, to Tag Rugby, Short Story Competitions and Face Painting; among many others. Atlas Camps allow children to choose their activities each day, keeping everything super democratic and bespoke to the children's wishes. If it has been a busy day at school and they just want to sit quietly or 'chill out', that's fine too.

In addition to the action-packed evenings, your children will also receive a snack - bonus!

### **Making your booking**

Bookings are all made via our website. Simply follow the link below to make your booking for next term. Each session is priced at £10 per child, per evening.

<https://atlasamps.co.uk/asc/amberley/index.php>

Bookings can be paid for online via: Paypal, online payment or childcare vouchers.

## **FOA**

Our very supportive FOA (Friends of Amberley) organise a variety of successful social and fundraising activities throughout the year. This includes the locally renowned 'Cow Hunt', Christmas and Summer Events. Funds raised are used to buy additional resources and activities which benefit the children. Getting involved with the FOA is a great opportunity to make new links with other local parents and to play a part in continuing the development of



our unique community. We are always looking for more help so please take an active part, if you can, by volunteering at events or by joining the team.

### **Car Parking**

There is a voluntary one-way scheme in operation on the road in front of the school during the times immediately before and after school.

Amberley is a small village, so please be considerate of local residents and access when you park. If possible, parents are encouraged to car share. The access road immediately in front of the school, Blackwell Cottage, Rectory Cottage and the zigzags should be clear at all times. The road opposite, next to the Amberley Inn, should also be kept clear to allow buses to pass and stop safely.

We have a Crossing Patrol before school to support families crossing the main road.

### **Parent Helpers**

We are always grateful for help in school, especially if you are able to help on a regular basis. You might like to help with computers, art work, hearing children read, playing games, after-school clubs, nature walks, or you may have some other talent you would like to share with us! Please let us know if you are able to help in any way.

### **Celebrations**

Each week, children will be chosen, for their demonstration of our 'learning powers'. They will be celebrated in Friday's assembly and have their name placed in the Golden Book.

Parents/carers are invited to join the Golden Book Assembly.

### **Communication**

We hold Parents' Evenings in the Autumn and Spring terms. This is an opportunity for you to discuss your child's progress

Each week we produce a newsletter, The Amberley News, detailing events of the week and notices of forthcoming events. It is available on the school website.

All classes have their own page on the school website, which gives information about what is being covered in class. All information regarding policies, curriculum, term dates, menus etc. can also be found on the school website.

We believe communication between parents and school is important, to ensure that we are all working together to support your child's learning. Staff are always available at the start and end of the school day or via the school office.

More information is available on our school website [www.amberleyschool.co.uk](http://www.amberleyschool.co.uk) or contact us via email: [admin@amberely.gloucs.sch.uk](mailto:admin@amberely.gloucs.sch.uk) or Phone: 01453 873349